

Washington, DC- Friday, Congressman Harry Teague applauded businesses across New Mexico's 2nd District that have been awarded a total of \$15,914 in Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency grants by the Department of Agriculture (USDA). The funding is part of the USDA's Rural Energy for America Program (REAP), an important initiative to help rebuild and revitalize rural America.

"I applaud these small business owners in southern New Mexico for their commitment to energy efficiency and their continued efforts to build the local economies in our rural communities," said Congressman Harry Teague. "These renewable energy and energy efficiency upgrades will help these business owners reduce their utility bills and those dollars saved will help them to grow their business."

The USDA selected a total of 705 renewable energy and energy efficiency projects, including three businesses in southern New Mexico. The Party Place in Carlsbad will receive \$4,153 to be put towards new energy efficient insulation and lighting. Central Tavern, LLC, located in Deming, was allocated \$8,781 for the development of a photovoltaic system to harness solar power for a start-up restaurant. Santa Rosa Lumber was awarded \$2,980 that will aid in the purchase of two new energy efficient coolers to replace the current equipment.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development fosters growth in homeownership, finances business development and supports the creation of critical community and technology infrastructure.